



MULLIN'S NOTES

The Official Newsletter of the 19th Assembly District



MAY 2007

Assembly Passes Mullin's Child Safety Bill

The Assembly has passed AB 881, authored by Assemblymember Gene Mullin, and sponsored by the California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health, which requires booster seat protection for children until the age of 8 unless they are 4'9" or taller.

"I reintroduced AB 881 because booster seats are an affordable and easy way to protect our vulnerable six and seven year old children from the leading cause of death," Assemblymember Mullin said. "As the father of two and grandfather of three, I know how important it is to keep our children safe while riding in a car. It is imperative that we provide parents with the most accurate safety practices that meet federal recommendations to protect these vulnerable 6 and 7 year olds. A study, with eight years of crash data, by State Farm Insurance Companies and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, shows that children in states that have passed booster seat laws were much more likely to be properly restrained for their age and size at the time of a crash than children in states that have no laws mandating booster seat use."

Existing Child Passenger Safety laws require children six years or younger and weighing less than 60 pounds be transported in an approved child safety seat in the rear seat of the vehicle. AB 881 requires children to remain in booster



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

Assemblymember Mullin during Assembly Floor Session.

seats in the back seat an additional two years until their 8th birthday, unless they are 4'9" in height or taller. The requirements of this proposal mirror the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

To date, 39 states (including Washington, D.C.) have some form of

a booster seat law. In many states, Safe Kids coalitions were actively involved in advocacy efforts to upgrade their child restraint law. Please note that the laws generally require some older children to ride properly restrained in a booster seat, secured by the motor vehicle's safety belt system. Of these 39 states, 23 are stricter than California's current law.

AB 881 now goes to the Senate.

ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULE

The tentative Assembly session schedule for June 1–8, 2007 is as follows:

June 1 No Floor Session. No Check-in Session. Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report Assembly Bills to the floor. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 11.

June 1-11 After June 1, no committee may meet absent a J.R. 61 waiver, prior to June 11 except to hear a bill that is re-referred to a committee pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2

June 4 Floor Session at 11 a.m. Last day in Assembly to notice intent to remove a bill from the Inactive File if an author wishes to amend by June 6

June 5 Floor Session at 9:30 a.m. Last day in Assembly to submit amendments to the Desk (by 5 p.m. or before adjournment) if an author wishes to amend by June 6

June 6 Floor Session at 9:30 a.m. Last day in Assembly to notice intent to remove a bill from the Inactive File to be returned to Third Reading by June 8th. Last day to amend measures on the Assembly Floor prior to June 8

June 7 Floor Session at 9:30 a.m. Last day to amend a bill to add or delete an urgency clause

June 8 Floor Session at 9:30 a.m. Last day for Assembly to pass non-urgency, non-tax levy Assembly Bills

Assemblymember Mullin Honors Local Tuskegee Airman

BY SARAH PHELPS
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

On May 11, Assemblymember Mullin recognized San Mateo resident and World War II veteran Leslie Williams with a Resolution from the California State Assembly in honor of his service to his country and his accomplishments as a Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Williams was also awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in March along with 300 other surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

Leslie Williams was born in San Francisco and grew up in San Mateo, attending San Mateo High School and San Mateo Junior College. When World War II began, Mr. Williams volunteered for the Air Corps, only to see all of his white friends get accepted, despite having met all of

the necessary requirements. Eventually he was drafted into the Army Quartermaster Corps and stationed in Seattle, WA. Having been a professional dancer all his life, in Seattle he assembled a group of soldiers and formed an orchestra and entertainment group which then performed around the city for war benefit shows, in addition to performing at the officers' parties. At one of the parties, Mr. Williams attracted the attention of General Eley Denson who helped him gain entry into the Army Air Corps. After sign-

ing up, Mr. Williams was sent to the segregated air base in Tuskegee, AL for training, where he became a bomber pilot with the 332nd Fighter Group. The 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, was a group of African American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II, at a time when many still believed that black men lacked the intelligence, skill, and patriotism to serve in the military.

After the war, Mr. Williams became one of only two African American students accepted

into Stanford University. He also opened the Les Williams Dance Studio in San Mateo, which he owned and operated for more than 25 years. At the age of 55, Mr. Williams went back to Stanford, enrolling in Stanford Law School. After graduation, he practiced law in San Mateo for 25 years. After

retiring from his law practice, he became a real estate broker with Cashin in San Mateo, which he continues to this day. In March of this year, at the age of 87, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow, in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda which was attended by President Bush, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, members of Congress, and other dignitaries. For more information on the Tuskegee Airmen and their Congressional Gold Medal, please visit www.tuskegeairmen.org.



Photo by Mark Nagales

Sarah Phelps - Field Representative, Mr. Leslie Williams, Assemblymember Gene Mullin, and Virginia Kroger - Receptionist/Scheduler.

Craig Donnelly Hired As New District Director

I am pleased to welcome Craig Donnelly to my staff as District Director. He will be responsible for the daily operations of my San Mateo District Office which includes constituent issues, communications, outreach, and events.

Craig comes to us with over 30 years of business management experience with such firms as Varian, Ampex, and Spectra-Physics. During the past three years he has been self-employed as an

organizational consultant and executive coach.

I am honored to have Craig as an integral part of our team. He will strengthen the continuing partnership between our office and the community that we serve.

Please feel free to contact Craig at my District Office at (650) 349-1900 or via email at craig.donnelly@asm.ca.gov if you have suggestions on how we can better serve you.

Assembly Appropriations Committee Approves Mullin's Ranked Voting Bill

Assembly Bill 1294, authored by Assembly Members Gene Mullin and Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill would allow general law cities and counties to use Instant Runoff Voting or Choice Voting to elect local officials. If approved, voters would have the opportunity to rank their candidates in order of preference.

"Cities and counties deserve the opportunity to use the electoral system that best addresses their unique needs," Mullin said. "This legislation gives cities and counties the flexibility they need to serve their voters."

This bill addresses the growing interest in using ranked voting systems. Currently, only charter counties or charter cities can use ranked voting. By eliminating the need for a costly runoff election it saves local governments money. The City and County of San Francisco has successfully switched to instant runoff



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

Assemblymember Gene Mullin and Assemblymember Mark Leno.

voting. Since it instituted ranked voting, San Francisco has saved \$1.2 million per election.

Supporters of this bill include Californians for Electoral Reform, League of Women Voters of California, and Warren Slocum, the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-Clerk-Recorder for San Mateo County.

Assembly Bill 1294 will now go to the full Assembly for a vote.

Bill To Improve School Accountability Report Card Passes Committee

Assembly Bill 1061, authored by Assemblymember Gene Mullin and sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, was unanimously approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee yesterday.

"This bill will take significant steps toward improving the School Accountability Report Card, or SARC, that is released annually for each public school in the state," Mullin said. "The goal is to make the SARC more understandable and readable, while at the same time improving the quality of information available about each school.

I am pleased to be working with the Governor on this bill."

Proposition 98 passed in 1988, made provisions for the SARC, which was intended to inform parents on the status and progress of their children's schools. Until September 30, 2000, schools were allowed to create their own SARCs; this caused problems of clarity, and schools complained that extent of the reporting was burdensome. This bill proposes to delete thirteen of the more than thirty data elements currently reported on the SARC.

In addition, the bill clarifies a district's responsibilities and deadlines for either posting the SARC on the internet and/or making hard copies available to the public. The bill also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make important changes to the SARC template, including offering internet links to other locations in order to provide more detailed information, and to report back to the Legislature on other alternatives for improving the SARC.

Assembly Bill 1061 will now go to the full Assembly for a vote.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Staff Roster*

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Beware of Medicare Scams

BY MARK NAGALES

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a phone scam targeting Medicare beneficiaries known as the "\$299 Ring." Individuals are called and talked into withdrawing money from their checking account to enroll in a non-existent drug plan upon payment of \$299. This is not a legitimate offer or plan. A Medicare drug plan can not ask a beneficiary for a bank account or other personal information over the phone.

Legitimate Medicare drug plans must bill the beneficiary for the monthly premium, which is typically deducted from a Social Security check. If you feel that someone may have taken your money or personal information under false

pretenses, immediately contact your local law enforcement agency.

You can also take these steps to help ensure that you do not fall victim to Medicare scams:

- * Know that no one can ask you for personal information during marketing calls
- * Always keep your personal information safe
- * Do not allow uninvited guests to your home
- * Call 1-800-MEDICARE yourself if you have questions concerning Medicare

Please protect your privacy to the maximum extent possible, which includes not releasing any account information to strangers unless you initiated the contact to a legitimate agency.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Committees*

Standing Committees: Education (Chair) • Budget • Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance • Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration • Housing and Community Development • Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security • Water Parks and Wildlife

Select Committee: Select Committee on Biotechnology (Chair)



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